



Common Core Standards Cheat Sheet

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English/Language Arts & Literacy

Key Acronyms

- **CCS** Common Core Standards
- **CCSS** Common Core State Standards
- **CCR** College and Career Readiness
- **E/LA** English Language Arts
- **L** Language Standards
- **RF** Reading: Foundational Skills
- **RI** Reading: Informational Text
- **RL** Reading: Literature
- **RH** Reading: History
- **RST** Reading: Science & Technical Subjects
- **SL** Speaking and Listening
- **W** Writing
- **WHST**: Writing History, Science & Technical Subjects

In a Nutshell

The Common Core State Standards (CCSS) are a state-led effort that provide a clear, consistent understanding of what students are expected to learn to be college and career-ready.

They are spearheaded by two groups, the National Governor's Association Center for Best Practices (NGA) and the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO). The common core standards were introduced in 2010 and 45 states and 3 territories have adopted them. In 2014-15, current state tests will be replaced by one of the two exams designed for the common core.

The standards define what students should know and be able to do, *not* how teachers teach. Decades of literacy research should provide the framework for instructional best practices in reading, writing, speaking and listening.

Key Terms

- **Anchor Standard**—A College and Career Readiness (CCR) standard which indicates general, cross-disciplinary literacy expectations that must be met to prepare to enter college and workforce training.
- **Benchmark**—The most specific and finite level of a given standard.
- **Content Strand (CS)**—One of the focus areas of a CCR anchor standard (e.g. Key Ideas and Details, Craft and Structure, etc.).
- **Content Area (CA)**—Any given content area as it crosses multiple grade levels. Each content area is headed by a strand-specific set of CCR Anchor Standards (e.g. Reading, Writing, Language, Speaking and Listening).
- **Discipline**—Major subject heading (e.g. English Language Arts, Math, etc).
- **Type of Text**—The type of text within the Content Area (e.g. reading literature, reading for information, foundational skills).

Key Points and Shifts for E/LA and Literacy Standards

- Four domains in E/LA & Literacy — Reading, Writing, Speaking & Listening, Language.
- Heavier emphasis on nonfiction and reading and writing from informational text
- Increased emphasis on text complexity
- Academic vocabulary is increasingly important in the Common Core Standards.
- Increase in text-based responses in reading and writing
- Increased use of argument in reading and writing
- When working with standards, it is essential to look at standards across grades (at least 1 or 2 grade levels below and above the target grade).
- Grades K-5: literacy standards are embedded in the E/LA Standards
- Grades 6-12: literacy standards for History/Social Studies, Science, & Technical Subjects are separated.
- Literacy standards are expected to be taught within History/Social Studies, Science, & Technical Subjects
- *Every* teacher is a teacher of reading within their content area.
- *Everyone* in the building is responsible for literacy.

Anchor Standards

An important concept in the CCS are "Anchor Standards." The anchor standards run across K-12 and define what students should know and be able to do to be college and career ready. In K-5, the anchor standards are in reading and are broken into the categories of literature, informational texts, and foundational skills. In 6-12, the reading anchor standards are broken into the categories of "English Language Arts" (ELA) and "Literacy in History/Social Studies, Science, and Technical Subjects."

The 10 anchor standards for reading are broken up into 4 groups

1. Key Ideas and Details (R.CCR.1-3)
2. Craft and Structure (R.CCR.4-6)
3. Integration of Knowledge and Ideas (R.CCR.7-9)
4. Range and Level of Text Complexity (R.CCR.10)